

Message Text

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47

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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DEPARTMENT PASS VO AND EUR/CE

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CVIS, GE

SUBJECT: VISAS: GDR VISA CLEARANCES

REF: (A) STATE 239021; (B) STATE 282780; (C) STATE 007161

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES GUIDANCE ON VISA CLEARANCE PROCEDURES CONTAINED IN REFTELS, AND WILL MAKE FUTURE SUBMISSIONS IN ACCORD WITH THEM. SOME FEW PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED VISAS EAGLE MESSAGES WILL BE RE-SUBMITTED IN APPROPRIATE FORMAT.

2. AS WE HAVE MOVED INTO VISA ISSUANCE OPERATIONS, WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DEVELOP A SYSTEM WHICH MEETS LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND ALSO MEETS DEPARTMENT'S SUBSTANTIVE NEEDS AND OUR ACTUAL OPERATIONAL SITUATION. WE HAVE THUS SUBMITTED SOME CASES TO THE DEPARTMENT WHERE SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS SEEMED IMPORTANT BUT WHERE SECURITY ADVISORY OPINIONS AS SUCH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN REALLY NEEDED. AS TIME GOES ON, AND WE ALL GAIN MORE EXPOSURE AND EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH GDR VISA CASES, EMBASSY WILL LIKELY USE DONKEY/CHIPMUNK FORMATS LESS OFTEN AND RELY PRINCIPALLY ON LOCAL WAIVER OBTENTION AND "VISAS EAGLE FOR NAME CHECK".

3. WITH REGARD TO THE FOUR MESSAGES MENTIONED IN PARA. 3.

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OF REF. (C), EMBASSY DELIBERATELY SELECTED VISAS DONKEY OR

DONKEY/CHIPMUNK FORMAT BECAUSE IT FELT THAT VO AND EUR/CE SHOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER THESE CASES, WHICH WERE FIRST IN THEIR CATEGORIES, AND GIVE THE EMBASSY ITS VIEWS ON WHETHER WAIVERS AND VISAS SHOULD BE ISSUED. IN THREE OF THEM, WE THEREFORE ALSO ASKED FOR CHIPMUNK PROCEDURES.

4. BERLIN'S 5023 AND 5024 REPRESENTED B-1 APPLICANTS WHO MAY BE FORERUNNERS OF LARGE GROUPS. EMBASSY HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT DEPARTMENT DID WISH CHANCE TO OFFER GUIDANCE AND OPINION IN THE FIRST FEW CASES OF THIS TYPE. HENCEFORTH, IN MOST INSTANCES, AND EXCEPT IN LARGE GROUPS, EMBASSY WILL INCREASINGLY CONFINE ITSELF TO VISAS EAGLE. (EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO SLUG VISAS EAGLE

MESSAGES ON B-1, E, F, H, J AND L CASES FOR EUR/CE.)

5. BERLIN'S 5032 REPRESENTED FIRST CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST CASE, AND ONE WHERE THERE WAS 212(A)(28) INELIGIBILITY. 212 (D) (3)(A) WAIVER IS BEING OBTAINED LOCALLY. NEVERTHELESS, THE EMBASSY WANTED MORE THAN JUST A NAME CHECK AND FELT THAT VISAS EAGLE ALONE WAS INSUFFICIENT.

6. BERLIN'S 5034 WAS FIRST LARGE ORGANIZED GROUP TO COME BEFORE EMBASSY. ALL MEMBERS ARE INELIGIBLE UNDER 212(A)(28). EMBASSY THUS SELECTED DONKEY/CHIPMUNK FORMAT FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: (A) IT WANTED DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON THIS GROUP'S PROPOSED TRAVEL FOR MORE THAN JUST VISA PURPOSES, AND REQUESTED SIMULTANEOUS CHIPMUNK PROCESSING AS A FACILITATION OF THE SYSTEM. (B) PARA. 1 (E) OF REF. (A) INDICATED THAT PERSONAL APPEARANCES OF NIV APPLICANTS COULD BE WAIVED FOR LARGE ORGANIZED GROUPS. (EMBASSY'S SLENDER CONSULAR SECTION - ONE OFFICER, NO LOCAL EMPLOYEES - INDICATED WISDOM OF THIS OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUE.) TO OBTAIN LOCAL WAIVER FROM INS FRANKFURT, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT FS-493 PROCEDURE MUST BE COMPLETED INDIVIDUALLY, AND THIS IS NOW BEYOND OUR PERSONNEL RESOURCES FOR LARGE GROUPS. WE HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN ARRANGE A PROCEDURE WHERE WE CAN OBTAIN WAIVERS LOCALLY BY TELEGRAM, WITHOUT PERFORMING FS-493 PROCEDURE IN EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE. IF THIS CANNOT BE WORKED OUT WITH INS, EMBASSY SEES NO ALTERNATIVE TO USING DONKEY/CHIPMUNK FORMAT UNTIL OUR CONSULAR SECTION IS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED IN SIZE.

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5. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY REQUESTS AND WILL APPRECIATE PROCESSING OF ALL FOUR CASES (OR COMPLEXES OF CASES) UNDER THE DONKEY/CHIPMUNK FORMAT. EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC DECONTROL.COOPER

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